

GULLIVERS TRAVELS



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ALTEMUS' ONE SYLLABLE SERIES

GULLIVER'S TRAVELS

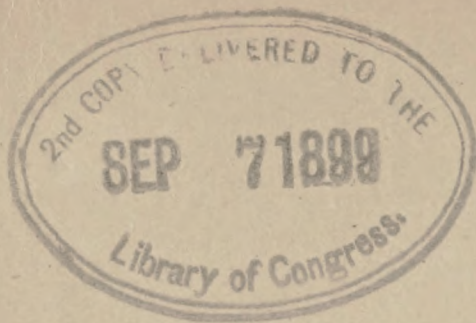
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Jonathan Swift
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WITH FIFTY-FOUR ILLUSTRATIONS

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A VOYAGE TO LILLIPUT



CHAPTER I.

I WAS the third of five sons. At the age of four and ten years, I was sent from home to a great school, where I stayed three years, but at the end of this time, as my friends had not the means to keep me there, I was bound to Mr. James Bates, a man of much skill in the Arts men use to cure those who are sick or hurt.

I was with him four years, and found him at

all times a true friend, and one whom I could trust.

From a boy I had felt that I would like to go to sea, to go to strange lands, and see rare sights; and in all that I read at school or at home, I kept in view the wish to learn such things as would be of use to me in a life of that kind.

At last, by the aid of my friend Mr. Bates, I got a place on board a ship bound for the Great Sea, that lies to the south east of our land. But when at the end of three years I came back from a long cruise, I met Miss May Brown, whom I made my wife, and now thought I would spend my days on land, and live in peace and joy at home with my good wife.

But at the end of two years Mr. Bates died, and as I had few friends left, I did not thrive so well, and my wish to go to sea came back. So the next six years of my life were spent on the waves, and these long trips gave me the means to add much to my wealth.

All the time I could spare from my work on board ship, I spent with good books, and when

on shore I took care to look well at the ways of the men whom I saw, that I might learn all I could from their ways of life and modes of speech.

The last of these trips did not turn out well. I grew tired of the sea, and once more made up my mind to stay at home with my wife and babes. I went from place to place, with the hope that I could make more gold, but when in three years I found that things did not mend, I took a turn on board a ship bound for the South Sea.

We set sail May, in 1699, and for a while we had a fine sail, but on our way from the South Sea to the East, we were borne out of our course by a wild storm.

Twelve of our men were dead from hard work and poor food; the rest were quite weak from the same cause.

It was the warm time of year in those seas, and the air so full of mist that we could not see our way. At length the crew saw a rock in five score yards of the ship, but the wind was so strong, and drove us on the rock with so much force, that the ship at once split in two.

Six of the crew, of whom I was one, let down the boat, and by hard work we at last got off from the ship and the rock, but we soon found we were so worn out with the toil we had gone through while on the ship, that we could not row more than three leagues. We could do naught but trust to the waves, and in half an hour a gale from the north burst on us, our boat was thrown on its side, and we were all cast in the sea.

As for those who were in the boat with me, as well as those left in the ship, I know not their fate, but think they were all lost. For my own part, I swam as chance bade me, and was borne on by wind and tide. Now and then I let my feet drop, but could not touch ground. At last, when I could swim no more, I found the sea was not so deep but I could stand up in it, and the waves by this time had grown more calm.

I had to walk a mile to reach the shore, which I did by eight o'clock at night. I went on half a mile more, but saw no signs of houses or men. I was so worn out that I lay down on the grass, which I found to be so short and soft that it made

a nice, good bed, and here I had a sweet sleep of nine hours.

When I woke it was just day light. I tried to rise, but could not move, for as by chance I lay on my back, I found my arms and legs were fast to the ground and my hair, which was long and thick, was tied down in the same way. I felt too, some thin bands or small cords cross from side to side of my breast. I could look in no way but up; the sun grew hot, and the light hurt my eyes.



I FOUND THE SEA WAS NOT SO DEEP.

I heard a slight noise near me, but while on my back I could see naught but the sky. In a

short time I felt some live thing move on my left leg. It came up on my breast near my chin; I then saw it had the form of a man, but was not more than half a foot high, and that he had a bow and darts in his hands, and a bunch of darts on his back. In the mean time, I felt at least two score more of the same kind (as I thought) come up, some on my feet and some on my breast and arms. At sight of these strange things, I gave such a loud roar that they all ran back in a fright, and some of them, as I was told, got hurt when they leaped from my sides to the ground. But they soon came back, and one of them, more bold than the rest, came up so far as to get a full view of my face, when he threw up his hands and eyes, and cried out in a shrill, clear voice, *He ki nak de gul!* The rest all said the same words three times, but of course I knew not what they meant.

I lay all this time, as you must know, ill at ease, but at length I had the good luck to break the strings and wrench out the pegs that bound my left arm to the ground. At the same time,



I LAY ILL AT EASE.

by a strong pull that gave me much pain, I could move the cords that tied my hair on the left side, so that I could just turn my head a short way to the right.

But ere I could get hold of the men, they all once more ran off, on which there was a great shout, in a shrill tone, and I felt five score darts strike my left hand, and saw a flight of darts in the air, like straws in the wind. Not a few of these darts fell on me, I guess, though I did not feel them, save on my face, on which I at once laid my left hand.

When this fall of darts was past, I cried out with grief and pain and tried to get loose, when some of them came to stick me with spears in the sides, but by good luck I had on a thick coat which they could not pierce.

I now thought it would be best to lie still till night, when as my left hand was loose I could with ease get free. As for these men, I had cause to think I might be a match for all that could come to make war on me.

When the men saw I lay still, they shot no

more darts, but I knew by the hum of voices, which I heard, that vast crowds stood near me, and four yards from me, near my right ear, I heard a noise like that made by men at work with tools. I tried to turn my head that way as well as the strings and pegs would let me, when I saw that they had put up a kind of stage which was one foot and a half high, and of a size to hold four or five of the men, and had two sets of steps by which they went up.

From this stage one of the men made me a long speech, but, as he spoke in their tongue, I knew not one word of what he said. But I should have told you that just as he went on the stage he sent two score and ten men to cut the cords that bound the left side of my head, which



HE MADE ME A LONG SPEECH.

left me free to turn and look at him while he spoke.

This man, whom I took to be some great lord or chief, was, as I thought, in the prime of life; three men stood with him on the stage, one of whom was a page that held up his train, and who was as tall as half the length of my hand.

The lord did the part of one who could speak well, and I saw that some words were full of threats, while some were meant to be kind.

I spoke to him in a few words, but in the most meek way that I could, and tried to lift both my hands and my eyes to the sun, as if to call on him to see that I kept my word.

As by this time I felt the need of food, I put my hand to my mouth two or three times, to let them see my wants.

When the lord knew what I meant, he came down from the stage, and told his men to place at my sides three or four sets of steps. On these steps more than five score men could mount and come up to my mouth, with pans full of meat

that had been sent by the king when he first heard of me.

They brought me legs and loins like those of a sheep, but not so large as the wings of a lark. I put two or three of these legs in my mouth at one time, and took three loaves at once, the size of large pills.

They came up with my food as fast as they could, though they were struck dumb, both at my bulk and the way in which I ate.

I then made signs to let them know I was in want of drink. They had found from the way in which I ate that no small draught would serve; and as they were men of much tact, they threw up with great skill one of their large casks, then drew it up to my mouth and beat out the head. I drank it off at one drink, which I might well do, as it did not hold half a pint. This drink had the taste of a small wine of France, but was not so sour. They brought me more, which I drank in the same way, and made signs for still more, but they had none to give me.

When I had done these feats they cried out

for joy, and I saw them dance on my breast, and heard them cry out the same strange words I heard at first.

They made me a sign to throw down the casks, but first let the men on the ground know they must stand out of the way; and when they saw the casks fly up in the air, there was a loud shout that made the earth ring with its sound.

CHAPTER II.

I OWN that more than once while they went to and fro, I felt that I would like to size all of them that came in my reach and dash them to the earth. But the thought that what I had felt might not be the worst they could do, and the pledge I had made them, soon drove this wish from my mind.

I could but take note of how brave these wee men were, who durst to mount and walk on me as they did, while one of my hands was free, and that, too, with not the least signs of fear, at what must have been to them so strange a sight.

When they saw I made no more calls for meat, there came to me from the king a man of high rank, who got up first on my right leg, then came up to my face, with twelve of his train, and made me a short speech, with no signs of wrath, but as though he meant to be firm in what he said.

More than once I saw him point to the east, which I found was the way in which their chief town lay, and where the king and his court thought best I should be borne.

I spoke to him in few words and made a sign to let him know I would like to be set free. I think he knew what I meant, for he shook his head and held his own hands in a way to show me that I must go in bonds as I was. But he made more signs to show that I should have meat and drink, and that they would treat me well.

When I saw this, I once more thought I would try to break loose, but when I felt the sting of their darts on my face and hands, in which some of them still stuck, I let them know they might do with me as they thought best

When they saw this, the lord and his train went off.

Soon I heard a great shout, and felt that the men had made the cords loose on my left side so that I could turn on my right and thus rest more at my ease; then they came and put on my face and hands a salve that took out the pain of their darts.

These things, with the food and drink they gave me, did me much good and made me wish to sleep. I slept eight hours, nor was this strange, for the king had had a drug, to make me sleep, put in the casks of wine.

It seems that when I was first seen at rest on the ground, the king was at once told of it, and he and his court made up their minds that I should be tied in the way I have told you (which was done in the night while I slept), that food and drink should be sent me, and that I should then be brought to their chief town, in which was the home of the king.

This may seem a bold plan, and I am sure no prince in our land would try a scheme of this

kind, though in my mind it was quite wise as well as kind, for if these men had tried to kill me with their spears and darts, it would have thrown me in such a rage as to give me strength to break the cords, when they would have been no match for my size and strength.

I found that these men, small though they are, show much skill in the means they use to raise or draw great weights. The king builds his own men of war, some of which are nine feet long, in the woods where the trees grow, and has them drawn on wheels to the sea, one fourth of a mile off; thus you see that to move so large a weight as I was, was no new thing to them. But you may wish to know how it was done.

To this end scores of the king's men were set to work to get out and bring to where I lay one of their large carts, or frames, eight feet long and four feet wide, and made to move on a score of wheels, put ten in a row.

This cart set out in four hours from the time they first saw me on the land.

It was brought up near to where I lay, and

the next great task was to raise and place me on it.

Four score poles, each one foot high, were set up by the side of the frame, and strong cords the size of pack thread were made fast by hooks to bands which the men had girt round my neck, my arms, my waist, and my legs. A vast crowd of men then drew up these cords by means of small wheels on the poles, and thus in less than three hours I was drawn up and thrown on the frame and there tied fast.

All this I was told, for while they were thus at work I lay in a deep sleep, by the force of the drug put in my wine.

A great team of the king's horses, each less than half a foot high, drew me to the town, half a mile off.

I slept well for four hours from the time we set out, when we had to stop to put to rights some part of the cart. At this time two or three of the young men, who thought they would like to see my face while I slept, came up on my breast, when one of them, a chief in the guards,

put the sharp end of his spear a good way up the left side of my nose. This of course made me sneeze, when they all stole off, and it was three weeks ere I knew why I woke as I did.



I SNEEZED, AND THEY ALL STOLE OFF.

We made a long march that day, and came to a stop at night, with scores of guards on each

side of me, half with lights, and half with bows and darts, to shoot me if I should move.

The next morn we went on our way, and came by noon near the gates of the town. The king and all his court came out to meet me, but his lords, for fear of his life, would by no means let him come to where I could reach him.

At the place where we came to a stop stood an old house of great size for that land, and in this it was thought best I should lodge. The gate or door was four feet high and two feet wide, through which I could creep with ease. Near the ground on each side of this gate was a small square hole, through one of which the king's smith took four score and ten chains, in size and looks like those worn on a watch in my land. These he made fast to my left leg with locks.

Vast crowds of men came out of the town to see me, and, in spite of my guards, came up on the steps to see my face, but the king soon put a stop to this on pain of death.

When the men found that the chains held me so fast that I could not break loose, they cut all

the strings that bound me, and I rose in as sad a state of mind as I had known in all my life.

But I will not try to tell you what a noise was made by the crowd when they saw me first rise and walk.

The chains that held my legs were two yards long, so that I could walk back and forth in front of my house or creep in the door and lie at full length on the floor.

CHAPTER III.

STILL as I had been while all these things went on, it was with much joy I found I was once more free to stand on my feet. I cast my eyes round me, and must own I had no where seen so fine a sight. The fields, two score feet square, were like large beds of plants in bloom, as I saw them spread out to my view. Here and there were clumps of woods, the trees of which, as well as I could judge, were not more than eight feet in height. On my left I saw the town,

and so small was it in all its parts, that it was more like a sketch than a real town.

The king now rode near me on his horse, though it like to have cost him dear, for the horse took fright when he saw me, and rose up on his hind feet, but the king kept his seat till his guards ran in and held the reins while he had time to get down.

When he was on the ground he went round to look at me on all sides, and was struck with the sight of my great height and huge size, but took care to keep out of my reach.

He told his cooks to give me food and drink, which they brought me in a sort of a cart on wheels.

The king and the queen, with the chief men of the court and their wives, were still near me.

None of his court is so tall as the king by the breadth of my thumb nail. His face shows that he is a man of strong will; his skin is dark, his limbs well made, and he moves with grace and like a king. He was then past his prime, and had ruled his land with great skill for eight years.

That I might see him well I lay down on my side while he stood three yards off, though, as I have since had him in my hands, you need have no doubt that I know how he looks.



THE KING'S HORSE TOOK FRIGHT WHEN HE SAW ME.

His dress was plain, though he wore on his head a crown of gold set with gems. He held his sword drawn in his hand, to strike me if I should try to break loose. His sword was three

inches long; the hilt and sheath were gold and set with gems.

The queen, the lords and their wives, were all clad in such rich dress that the spot on which they stood was like a bright hued robe wrought with gold and spread on the ground.

The king and his wise men spoke to me oft, but their words were as strange to me as mine were to them, for though I spoke to them in all the tongues that I knew, which were High and Low Dutch and French, they could not in the least make out what my words meant.

At the end of an hour the court went off, and I was left with a strong guard to keep back the men, who were wild with the wish to crowd round me as near as they durst. As I sat on the ground by the door of my house, some of them were so rude as to shoot their darts at me, one of which fell short of my eye not more than an inch.

The man in charge told the guard to seize six of those who took the lead in this mean act, and he thought it would but serve them right to have them bound and put in my hands. The guard

took and bound them, but thought best to push them near me with the butt end of their spikes.



I MADE A FACE AS IF I WOULD EAT HIM UP.

I took them all in my right hand, put five of them in my coat, and as to the sixth, I made a face as if I would eat him up. The poor man

cried out with fear, while the chief and his men were in much dread, the more so when they saw me take out my knife; but I soon put them at ease, for with a mild look I cut the strings that bound him and set him on the ground, when off he ran. I took the rest out one by one, and did the same thing to them, and could see that this mark of my good will gave much joy to both the guards and the men.

As night came on, I went in my house and lay on the ground to sleep, and this I did for two weeks, but in the mean time the king saw I was so much in need of a bed, that he sent his men to fix up my room so that I could rest more at my ease. They first brought a great pile of their own small beds in carts, and put them down four deep on my floor, which was made of smooth stone. Next they brought sheets, spreads, and such things as I would need to make me warm.

As the news that I was in the town spread through the land, it brought vast crowds of men to see me, so that few were left for work on the farms, and much want of food would have grown

out of this state of things, had not the king been so wise as to take steps to ward it off, for he made a law that those who had once seen me should go home and not come near my house but by leave of the court.

In the mean time, the king and his men of state were in much doubt as to what was best to do with me. They had fears that I might break loose, and that my food would cost a great deal, and might in the end cause much want in the land. At one time they made up their minds to starve me to death, or at least to shoot me in the face and hands with foul darts that would soon kill me, but gave up this plan when they thought that the stench of such a large corpse might bring a plague in their town, and thence spread through the whole realm.

In the midst of these doubts some of the head men of the troops told the court of the good will I had shown to the six men who shot at me. This made the court think so well of me that they at once made a law that all the towns in a half mile should bring in each day, six bures,

two score sheep, and as much bread, wine, and beer as I might need. For these things they were to be paid from the king's own purse.

He gave me such men as I might need to wait on me; paid them well, and had tents built for them on each side of my door. He gave charge that such of his men as could sew should make me a suit of clothes, in the style worn in their land; that six of his wise men should teach me to speak in the words of their tongue; and last, that the king's horses, and those of his lords and troops of guard, should now and then be brought where they could see me, that they might get so they would have less fear when they came near me.

All these things were done in due time, and in the short space of three weeks I knew how to speak some of their words and could talk with them.

In this time the king came now and then to see me, and would help the wise men teach me.

But the one thought and wish of my heart was to get loose from these bonds that bound me like

a wild beast to his cage, and the first words the wise men taught me were these to the king: "I beg that you will be so good as to set me free," which I day by day said to him on my knees. To this his words, as well as I could tell were: "This must be a work of time and not to be thought on but by the aid of my court. But first you must swear a peace with me and my land. Yet we will at all times be kind to you."

He then said it would be best for me to earn his good will and that of his men by my own meek and wise acts.

He said he would be glad to know that I would not take it ill if he had some of his lords to search me, for I might have one or more arms, which could not be safe if they were of a size to match my huge form.

I said to him: "You shall be at ease on this point, for I can, at once, take off my clothes and turn them wrong side out, if you wish it." This I made him know part in words and part in signs.

He said that by their laws the search must be

made by two of his lords; that he knew this could not be done but by my aid, and he thought I was so kind and just he could trust these two men in my hands; that what they took from me I should have when I left his land, or be paid for at the price I should set on them.

CHAPTER IV.

I took up the two lords and let them search through all parts of my clothes.

Each man took with him a blank book, pens, and ink, to make a list of what they saw, and when they had done I took them out and set them down, that they might give their list to the king.

This list I have put in the words of my own tongue, and here give you such part of it as I think you will wish to read:

First, in the right side of the Great Man's coat, by a strict search, we found but one piece of



I MUST BE SEARCHED BY TWO OF HIS MEN.

coarse cloth, as large as a foot cloth for our king's chief room of state.

In the left side we saw a great bright chest, with a lid so large we could not lift it. The Great Man took off the lid for us, when we went in and soon found that we were up to our mid legs in a sort of brown dust that flew up and made us both sneeze two or three times at once.

In his right waist coat we found a pack of white, thin things tied round with a strong cord. This pack was as large as three men, and each piece was full of black marks, by which we judge he writes on them, though each sign is half as large as the palm of our hands.

In the left side there was a sort of tool, from the back of which went out a score of long poles, like the fence near the king's court. With this we think he combs his head, though we did not ask him, as we found it hard at times to make him know what we meant.

In the right side of his pants we found a huge tube the length of a man; this was made fast to a strong piece of wood, that stuck out on one

side, and was cut in such strange forms that we knew not what to make of it.

Out of his right fob hung a great chain. We bade him draw out what was at the end of this chain, which we thought to be a globe. The noise it made when he put it to our ears was like that of a mill, and we think it may be the god of this Great Man, since he said (if we knew his



MY WATCH THEY TOOK FOR A GLOBE.

words) that he did few things in which he did not take this as his guide, and that it told him the time for all the acts of his life.

From his left fob he took out a net as large as

those we use to catch fish, but made with a clasp like a purse. In it we found some coins which, if they be of pure gold, are worth a vast deal.

When we had gone thus far in our search we saw a belt round his waist, from which on the left side hung a sword as long as five men; and on the right a pouch with two cells, each cell as large as would hold three of our king's men. In one of these cells were some balls as large as our heads; the next cell was full of black grains, though of no great weight or bulk, for we could hold two score and ten of them in the palm of our hands at one time.

This is a list of what we found on the Great Man, who was kind to us. Made on the fourth day of the 89th moon of our king's good reign.

When this list was read to the king he bade me, though in kind terms, to give up one by one the things they had found. He spoke first of my sword, which I took out, sheath and all.

At the same time he bade some of his best troops stand round me with swords and darts,

though I did not see them, as my eye was on the king.

He then made a sign that I should draw my sword, which I did, and all the troops gave a shout, part in joy and part in fear, for the sun shone bright, and they were for the time made blind by the light from my sword as it went to and fro in the air.

The king bade me put it in the sheath and cast it on the ground six feet from the end of my chain.

He next made a sign that I should take out one of the long tubes, by which he meant my small fire arms. I drew it out and, as well as I could, made him know the use of it. I put some gun dust in it, made a sign to the king to have no fear, and then let it off in the air.

The awe of the men here was as great as at sight of the sword; they fell down as if they had been struck dead, while the king, though he stood his ground like a brave prince, could not gain his strength for some time.

I gave up my small arms as I had done my sword, and then my pouch of gun dust and balls.

I let the king know the gun dust must be kept from fire, as it would, from a small spark, blow his whole house in the air.

I next took out my watch, which the king had a great wish to see. He did not know what to think of the noise of the watch, and it gave him joy to see the hands move round, which he could well do, as their eyes are more keen than ours.

He told two of the guards to take up the watch and bear it off on a pole, as men do a cask of ale in our land.

I then gave up my purse, and with it nine large gold coins and some small ones, my knife, my comb, and my snuff box and books.

My sword, fire arms, and pouch, they took on a kind of cart to the king's store rooms, but the rest of my goods they gave back to me.

CHAPTER V.

THE king and his court, as well as the troops and men, one and all, had come to think so well

of me that I now had some hopes that they would soon take off my chains and let me once more be a free man. With this end in view I did all that I could to gain and keep their good will, and thus they came to have less fear of me. I would now and then lie down and let five or six men and boys dance on my hand; and at last the girls and boys would dare to come and play at hide and seek in my hair, and I had now got so I could talk with them with some ease, in their tongue.



I GAVE UP MY WATCH.

Their horses, that had been led day by day where they could see me, were not so shy as they were at first, but would come up to my feet with no signs of fear. Those who rode them would make them leap my hand as I laid it on

the ground, and one of the king's hunts-men on a large horse took in at one bound my whole foot, shoe and all, which was thought to be a great leap.

I had the good luck one day to please the king in a new way. I took nine stakes, each two feet long and as thick as a cane to walk with, and stuck them in the ground in the form of a square, two and a half feet on each side. I took four more sticks and tied to these two feet from the ground. A piece of cloth was then made fast to the nine sticks that stood up straight. This was drawn till it was as tight as a drum, while the four sticks made a kind of ledge round the four sides.

When this was done I told the king I would be glad if he would let a troop of his best horse, a score and four in all, come and ride on this plain. He thought well of the plan, and I took them up one by one in my hands and put them on the stage, when they at once rode off in two bands, each with its chief, and went through the acts of men at war, and that with such fine skill as I had not seen in all my life.

This gave the king so much joy that he had them go through the same thing each day for a week, and the queen, who had come out to see them, let me hold her in her close chair two yards from the stage, where she could get a full view of the whole thing.

One day, as I made sport for the court with feats of this kind, a man came in great haste to tell the king that some of his men who rode near the place where I was



HE TOOK MY FOOT, SHOE AND ALL.

first seen had found on the ground a great black thing of an odd shape; its edge was round and as large as the king's bed room; the top of it rose up in the midst as high as a man; it was not a live thing, as they first thought, for it lay still on the grass, and some of them had been round it more than once; by much hard work

they had been to the top, which was flat. They thought the Great Man might have left it there, and if the king should deem it best, they would take five horses and try to bring it to the town.

I at once knew what they meant, and was glad at heart to learn this news. While on the boat I had tied my hat fast to my head with a string, and it had stayed on as I swam, but fell off as I came on shore, though I thought it was lost at sea.

I told the king of its use, and that I would be glad if they would bring it to me as soon as they could, as I was much in need of it.

The next day they came up with it, but not in the best state. They had made two holes in the brim an inch and a half from the edge, and put two hooks in these holes. These hooks were then tied to their team by long cords, and thus my hat was drawn for half a mile (as they count miles in my land), but the earth was smooth and had no hills, so it was less hurt than I thought it would be.

As I had so oft told the king of my wish that

he would take off the chains that bound me, he at length brought my case to the mind of his court, when all the lords but one thought it would be best to grant my wish. This one at last made



up his mind to yield on the grounds that the terms on which I should be set free, and to which I must swear, should be drawn up by him-self. These terms he wrote out and brought to me,

and when they were read, I was made to swear that I would keep them.

I swore first as we do in my own land, and then in the way that their law calls for, which was to hold my right foot in my left hand, and to place my right hand on the crown of my head, with my thumb on the tip of my right ear.

But as you may wish to know the style in which these men write, as well as the terms on which I was set free, I here give you the whole thing, as near as I can, in the words of our own land:

Grand king of Lil-li-put, joy and fear of the wide world; whose realms are to the ends of the globe; king of all kings, whose feet press to the heart of the earth, whose head strikes the sun, at whose word the kings of the earth shake their knees; full of hope as the spring; bright as the sun at noon; full of awe as the blasts of the north.

This Grand Prince sends to the Great Man come of late to our fair realms these laws, that by a grave oath he shall be made to keep.

1. The Great Man shall not go from our land save at such times as we may give him leave.

2. He shall at no time be so bold as to come in to our chief town but by our known wish, at which time he must, two hours ere he comes, warn our men to keep in doors.

3. The said Great Man shall in his walks keep



THE TROOPS MARCHED THROUGH MY LEGS.

in our high roads, and not dare to walk or lie down in a mead or field of corn.

4. As he walks the said roads, he shall take great care not to step on our good men or to take them in his hands.

5. If one who takes our mail needs to go with great haste, the Great Man shall take him and his horse in his hands, or his coat, a six days' tour once in each moon, and (if needs be) bring him back safe to our chief town.

6. He shall aid us in all wars, and do his best to sink the fleet which we look for our foes to bring down on us in a few weeks.

7. That on his grave oath to keep all these laws, the said Great Man shall have day by day as much meat and drink as he needs, and such marks of our good will as we may please to give him.

Made at our chief town on the twelfth day of the 91st moon of our reign.

I was more than glad to swear to these terms, when the men came and took off my chains, and I was set free. I fell at the feet of the king, who

stood by, to let him know of my joy; but he bade me rise, and at the same time made use of some kind words which, lest you say that I am vain, I will not tell you. He said, too, that he thought I would serve him well, and earn all the kind acts he had shown me in the past, as well as those he might show me in time to come.

As I was at last free, my first wish was that I might go through the town and see it in all its parts. This the king gave me leave to do but bade me use great care not to harm the men or their houses.

I put on my short coat, for fear I might knock off the roofs with the skirts of my long coat, and cast my eyes to the ground at each step, lest I should walk on those who might



THE GREAT GATE.

still be in the streets, though the charge from the king was quite strict that all should keep in doors at the risk of their lives.

I found the wall round the town to be two and a half feet high and one foot thick, so that a coach with its team could pass round on it with no fear of a fall.

The town is built in the form of a square, with the wall of each side one third of a mile in length. The two large streets that run from side to side and cross in the midst of the town, and thus cut it in four parts, each the same size, are five feet in width. The lanes, which are too small for me to walk in, but which I saw as I went past, are one foot wide.

The king's house stands where the two large streets cross. It has round it a wall two feet high, but the space from the wall to the house was so wide I could see it well on all sides. The first court is a square of two score feet; and in the third court are the rooms of the king and queen, which I thought I would be glad to see, but found it hard to get to them, as the gates that lead the



I GO THROUGH THE TOWN.

way from square to square were but a foot and a half high and half a foot wide, and each house of the first court was five feet high, which was too big a stride for me to make at one step.

At last I thought of this plan: I went to the king's park, five score yards from the town, and with my knife cut down some of the large trees, of which I made two stools each three feet high, and so strong they could bear my weight.

I took up my stools and went once more through the streets. When I came to the side of the first court I stood on one stool and took one in my hand. This last I brought up and set down in the space, eight feet wide, left by the two courts, when I could step with ease from stool to stool, and get in the last court.

I lay down on my side and put my face to the doors of the rooms, which had been thrown wide that I might look in. I had at no time in my life met a scene so rich and grand as that which now burst on my view.

The queen, who sat in her room, with her

maids near by, was so kind as to give me a smile and put out her hand that I might kiss it.



CHAPTER VI.

ONE day, two weeks from this time, one of the lords of the realm came to my house, and said he would be glad to have an hour's talk with me. As he was a man of rank at court, and had more than once been kind to me, I bade him come in, and told him I would lie down, that he might reach my ear with more ease, but he chose to let me hold him in my hand.

He spoke first of my joy in that I was at last freed of my bonds. "But," said he, "if it had not been for the state of things at court, you might still have been in chains, for, as much thrift as there seems to be in our land, we are not so well off as you may think. We look for great harm from the king of a large isle that lies to the north of us. This king has been at war with our king for two score moons past, in which time we have lost some of our best ships, and a host of our troops, while their loss is thought to be as great as ours. We hear that they come

once more with a large fleet to make war on us, and our king, who thinks you are so brave, and who trusts so much to your great strength, has



I TOOK OUT MY GLASS AND VIEWED THE ENEMY'S FLEET.

sent me to tell you of this state of things, and to beg that you give us your help."

I bade the lord let the king know it was my

will to serve him, and that I would at the risk of my own life, stand by him and his state in the face of all his foes.

In a few days I made known to the king a plan by which I could seize the whole of this fleet, which, as our scouts told us, lay in the strait as if to sail with the first fair wind.

As I had not yet seen the fleet, I went out near the north-east coast, lay down by a small hill, took out my glass, and there, at rest on the waves, I saw two score and ten men of war, and more small ships than I could well count.

I then went back and told the men (for which I had the king's leave) to bring me a lot of cords and strong bars. The cords were as thick as pack thread, and the bars were like pins made to knit with.

To give the cords more strength, I put them three in one, and did the same with the bars, which I bent like a hook at one end, and then tied the straight end to the cord.

I went back to the coast, took off my coat, shoes, and socks, went in the sea and swam with

all the speed I could till I came up to the fleet. The men were so full of fear when they saw me, that they leaped from the ships and swam to the shore, where a vast crowd of men had come to look at the strange sight. I then took out my hooks and stuck them one by one in a hole at the prow of each ship, and tied all the cords in one knot at the end. While I did this, the foe shot at me with their darts, some of which stuck in my hands and face, and gave me great pain.

My chief fear was for my eyes, which would have been put out by the darts had I not thought of a means to save them. I still kept with me a pair of specs, which I now took out and made as fast as I could on my nose, then went on with my work, in spite of their darts.

The hooks were all in the holes; I took the knot in my hand and gave a pull, but not a ship would move, so that the worst part of my work was yet to be done. But with my knife I soon cut the ropes that held them in the sea, while the men sent a flight of darts at my face and hands. This done, I once more took up the knot

at the end of the cords to which the hooks were tied, and found that I could move the whole fleet with ease.

The men in the ships, who had not the least thought of what I meant to do, were at first struck dumb with awe. They had seen me cut their ropes, but thought I meant to let the ships float out to sea, but when they saw the whole fleet move in file, and saw me pull at the end of the cords, they set up such a loud scream of grief and woe as would wring one's heart with pain to hear it.

When I came to a safe place, I thought best to stop and pick out the darts which still stuck in my flesh, and rub on some of the salve I had found to be good when I first came to this land. I stayed here an hour, then went on and brought the fleet safe in port.

The king and his whole court stood on shore to watch the end of this brave act. They saw the ships move on in a half moon, but could not see me, as I was up to my breast in the waves. When I had come half way the strait, they were



I BRING IN THE FLEET.

yet more in pain, for I was now up to my neck in the sea, but were soon put at ease, for the strait grew less deep at each step.

When I came to where he could hear me speak, I held up the end of the cords and cried in a loud voice: "Long live our good king."

This brave prince came to meet me when I went on shore, and was full of praise at my brave deed.

Three weeks from this time the king of our foes sent a band of men, who made known to our king the terms on which he would make peace. These terms met the wish of our king, and thus this long war was at length brought to an end.

I had now been in this land nine months, and it may serve to please you for a while if I tell you of my mode of life while here.

As I was fond of work with tools, I made, out of the large trees that grew in the king's park, a stand from which to take my meals, and on which I could write. These trees were six feet high, and I could just reach their top with my hand.

Ten score of those who could sew were sent by the king to make me shirts and spreads for my beds, and though these things were all made of cloth as coarse and strong as they could get, yet they had to quilt it in two or three piles, for none of their goods is as coarse as our lawn. Their cloth is not more than one fourth of a foot wide, and three feet make a piece.

Those who made my shirts took my length in this way: as I lay on the ground, one stood at my neck, and one at my mid leg, with a strong cord which each held by the end, while a third found the length of the cord with a rule an inch long. Then they took the size of my thumb, and said that was all they would need, for, by a rule that twice round the thumb is once round the wrist, twice round the wrist is once round the neck, and so on to the waist, they could get all the lengths; and by the help of an old shirt that I spread on the ground, that they might see its size and style, they made me a good fit.

Those who made my coat and pants did not get my length in this way. They had me to

kneel down, when they put a set of steps from the ground to my neck, and one stood on these steps and let fall a plumb line from my neck to the floor. This just gave the length of my coat, but the size of my waist and length of my arms I took.

The cooks whom I had to dress my meat dwelt, as I have said, in small huts or tents near my house, and each brought me at meal time two plates of food. I took up in my hands a score of these cooks with their plates, and set them on my stand, while five score more stood by on the ground, some with plates of meat in their hands, and some with casks of wine slung on their backs, all which those who were on the stand drew up with ropes, as we do a pail from a well.

I put a whole dish of meat in my mouth at once, and made one good drink of a cask of wine.

Their lamb, which I ate bones and all, as we do the leg of a small bird, is not quite as good as ours, though their beef is. I took a whole goose in my mouth at one time, and own ours are not so good as theirs. Of the small fowls I

could take up a score or more on the point of my knife.

One day, when the king had heard of my mode of life, he sent one of his men to say that he would be glad if he and the queen, with the young princes of the blood, might have the joy to come and dine with me.



THEIR SHEEP, DOGS AND HORSES.

They came the next day, and I set them in chairs of state on my stand, just in front of me, with their guards round them.

The lord who has charge of the king's gold was there too, with his white staff, and I saw that he sat with a sour face, of which I took no note,

but ate as much as I could, both for the good name of my own dear land and to call forth the praise of the court.

I have cause to think that from this time this lord spoke ill of me to the king, for he told the king that I had cost him a vast sum of gold, and, on the whole, it would be best for him to take the first fair chance to send me off, or get rid of me in some way.

The king, from this day, was no more so kind to me as he had once been.

CHAPTER VII.

I HAD long thought I would like to cross the strait to the isle which was the home of the men who had of late made war on our king, for the men who came from there with terms of peace had been so kind as to say they would be glad to have me come and see their land.

One night, when I had just made up my mind to go on this trip, for which I had leave from the

king, one of the chief lords of state, to whom I had shown some acts of good will, came in a close chair to my house, and made known his wish to come in.

The men who brought him were sent off; I put the chair with the lord in it on my stand and took my seat in front of him.

I saw at once that his face was full of grief, while he said I must hear him in a thing that had much to do with my good name, ay more, with my life.



HE CAME TO MY HOUSE IN A CLOSE CHAIR.

“You must know,” he said, “that the king, with all his court, have for days past been wrought up to a high state of wrath by their talks on the great crimes which have been laid to your charge.”

These words, as you must know, put me ill at ease, though I felt in my heart that, let the charge be what it might, it was all false; but when he saw that I would speak he made me a sign to keep still, then went on: "Out of a wish to serve you, I have at the risk of my own life found out as much as I could of what they have done, and have come to let you know that the court charge you with a breach of faith to the king and his realm; they say you have been false to the oath you made when they set you free, and that you have been a friend to his foes.

"Each lord had his own plan as to what should be done to you; all but one thought best to take your life, and thus once for all be rid of you. At last all gave in to the plan of your friend, the scribe, who thought it would be best to spare your life just yet, but to put out both your eyes, then day by day to give you less food, by want of which you would grow weak and faint, lose your wish for meat, and die in a few months.

"So in a few days the scribe will come to your house and read you a list of the crimes with

which they charge you ; then he will call to your mind the fact that the king and his court are more than kind, since for such great crimes as



I AM CHARGED WITH CRIMES.

these they take not your life, which would be but just (they think), but will do no more than put out your eyes. Two score of the king's men

will be here to see it well done, by means of sharp darts stuck in your eyes.

"I leave it to your own tact to fall on such plan as you may think best; and that they may not know I have seen you, I must leave in as close a way as I came."

He left me, and I sat for a long while in deep thought.

At length I rose and wrote to tell my friend, the scribe, that, as I had leave from the king to do so, I would start the next day for the isle that lay on the far off side of the strait.

The next morn at break of day I went to the shore where our fleet lay, tied a cord to a large man of war that lay there, took off some of my clothes and put them with my bed-spread in the ship, and drew it off with me.

I would wade where I could touch ground, then swim a while, and at last came to the main port of the isle, where I found they had long been on the lookout for me. They gave me two guides to take me to the town. I held them in my hands, till I came near the gate, then sent

them on to let the king know I was there, and would wait to learn his will.

In an hour they came back to say that the



THE SCRIBE READS THE LIST OF MY CRIMES.

king and queen and great men of the court would soon come out to greet me. I went on, and when the king and his train saw me, each one got

down from his horse, though I did not see that they gave the least sign of fear. I lay on the ground while the king and queen gave me their hands to kiss.

There is no need I should tell you of all the good will shown me at this court, which was as it should have been from so brave a prince. But I did not fare quite so well as I had done in the land from which I had just come, for I had no house or bed, and had to lie on the ground and wrap up in my bed-spread.

Three days from the time I first came to this land, I went, with a wish to see some new thing, to the north-east coast, when half a league off at sea I saw a thing which I thought might be a boat, wrong side up.

I stood to gaze at it, when it was brought up so near by the tide that I knew it to be a real boat, that I thought might have been torn from some ship in a storm.

I went at once back to the town, told the king of what I had seen, and that I would be glad if

he would lend me a score of his ships, with their crews and some one to take charge of the fleet.



I DRAW OFF A LARGE MAN OF WAR.

The fleet went round the isle, while I made my way back by a near route to the place from which I first saw the boat.

When the ships came up I took off some of my clothes and swam out to the boat. The men threw me a cord, one end of which I tied to a hole in the prow of the boat, and one end to a man of war. I had to swim at the back end of the boat, and push it on with one hand till I came to where the sea did not reach more than to my arm pits.

As I could now stand on my feet, and work more at my ease, I took out a bunch of cords and tied one end of each to the boat, and one end to a ship. By the aid of the ships we at length got the boat to shore, when we made out to turn it right side up, and found with joy that it was not much hurt.

With the help of two oars that cost me ten days' hard work, I got the boat to the chief sea port, where a vast crowd of men came to see the strange sight.

I told the king my good luck had thrown this boat in my way to take me to some place from which I could go back to my own dear land; and I made bold to ask that his men might help me

fit it up, and that he would give me leave to go when this was done, all of which he was so kind as to grant.

The men came, and by their help I made two sails and such ropes as we would need to fix



them in place. For masts I cut down some tall trees, which the men made smooth when I had done the rough work.

At the end of a month, when all was done, I sent to let the king know that I would be glad to take my leave.

The king and queen with their sons came out to see me.

He gave me two score and ten sacks full of *sprugs*, as they call their gold coins, and a full length sketch of him self, which I put in my glove to keep safe.

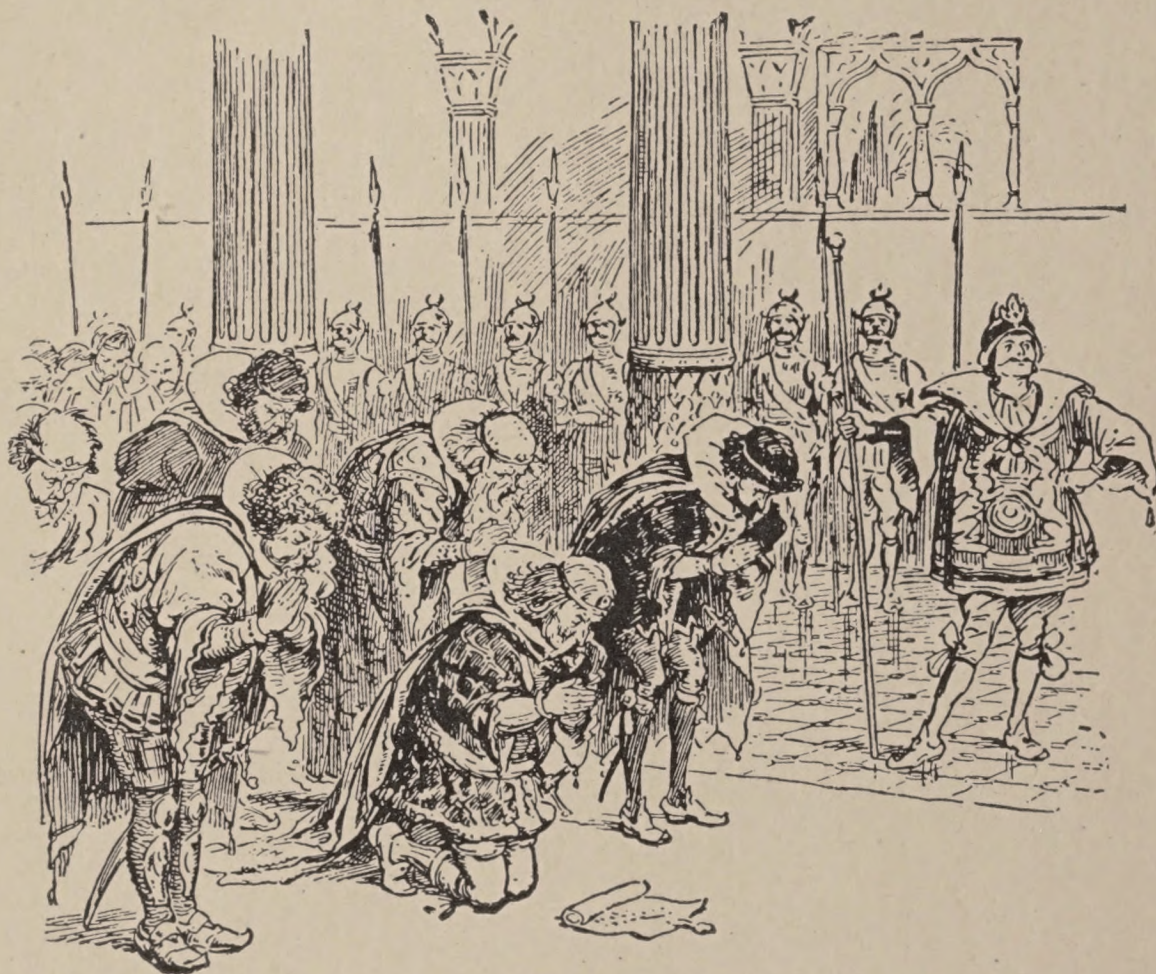
I took in my boat as much bread, meat, and drink as I would need in a long cruise, and six live cows and two bulls, with some ewes and rams, that I might raise more of the same kind when I got home.

To feed my live stock on board, I had a good store of hay and corn. I would have been glad to take twelve of the men with me, but this wish the king would by no means grant.

At length, when I had put all things in as good trim as I could, with the means at hand, I set sail in the fall of the year 1701, at six in the morn.

When I had gone six leagues to the north, I saw a small isle to the north-west. I went on till I came to the lee side of this isle, and thought it would be a good place to stop and rest, and take some food. Here I slept well through the

night. The next morn I ate my meal, and went on in the same course as that in which I first set out. I saw no signs of men or land all that day,



THE KING AND QUEEN CAME OUT TO SEE ME.

but the next day, at three in the eve, I saw a sail far off at sea.

I made a sign to her, in the hope that she would see it, and lie by for me, but she went on.

I made all the sail I could, and in half an hour she saw me and shot off a gun. I will not try to tell you how full my heart was, when I thought that once more I would see my own land, and the dear ones I had left there.

The ship lay by for me, and I came up with them at five or six in the eve, and oh, how my heart did leap for joy when I saw the flag she bore was that of my own land.

I took my cows and sheep, and got on board with the small store of goods I had left. There were some two score and ten men in the ship, and I had the good luck to meet an old friend of mine, who gave me a good name to the man in charge of the ship.

This man was kind to me, and soon made known his wish that I would tell him what place I came from last, and where I was bound, which I was glad to do, but he thought from my strange tale that I must be mad. Yet when I took out my cows and sheep, and set them where he could see them, he could but feel the truth of all I had told him.

I then let him see the gold the king gave me, the sketch I had put in my glove, and some rare things I had brought from that strange land. I gave him some of the coins, and told him when we got home I would give him a cow and a sheep.



I TOOK MY COWS AND SHEEP OUT OF MY POCKET.

We came to the Downs in May, 1702. I had but one piece of bad luck: the rats on board took off one of my sheep. I found her bones in a hole, with the flesh all gone. The rest of my stock I got safe to land, and set them to

graze on a green, where the grass was so fine they fed with much zest.

I did not stay at home more than two months, for my old wish to see more of the world would not let me be long in one place.

I put my wife in a good house and left with her the means to meet all her wants. My son John was at school, a good boy. My girl Belle, who is now a wife, was then in a nice home.

I once more took leave of my dear wife and boy and girl, with sad thoughts and much tears from all, and set sail on a large ship bound for the East. But if you wish to know more of this cruise and the strange things I saw you may read the next part of my book.



A VOYAGE TO BROBDINGNAG.



A VOYAGE TO BROBDINGNAG.



GULLIVER AMONG THE GIANTS.

CHAPTER I.

As I could at no time in my life stay long in one place, so in two months from the time in which I came back home, I took a ship in the Downs, in June, 1702. The ship was bound for the East. We had a good gale till we came to the Cape of Good Hope, where we must needs

land, and while there we found that our ship had sprung a leak, and that we must take our goods on shore and stay there for some months. The man in charge of the ship fell ill, in the mean time, so we could not leave the Cape till the end of March.

We then set sail and had a good cruise till we were north of the Line, when the wind, that had for ten days blown a strong gale from north to west, on the first of May ceased and a dead calm set in, of which I was quite glad. But some of the crew, who had been much in these seas, bade us look out for a storm. The next day the wind from the south set in and the storm came on, which took us so far out of our course that no one on board could tell in what part of the world we were.

Our food held out well, our ship was strong, and our crew all in good health; but we were in great need of fresh drink. We thought best to hold on the same course and not turn more to the north, which might have brought us to the great seas of ice that lie far to the north.

On the 16th of June, a boy on the mast saw land. The next day we came in full view of a great island, or main land (we knew not which), on the south side of which was a neck of land that stood out in the sea. We saw, too, the mouth of a stream, but it was too small for our ship to go in.

Here we thought best to stop for a while, and twelve men with arms were sent out in the long boat, to go on shore with jugs in search of springs. I went with them, that I might see the land and learn what I could. When we came on shore we saw no springs or streams and no signs of men. The men went off to the east side, in the hope that they could find springs near the sea, while I took a walk on the west side, where I found the land lone and bare and strewn with rocks. As there was naught to please me here I soon grew tired, and bent my course to the creek, and as the sea was full in my view, I saw our men get in the boat, and row for life back to the ship. Just as I thought to call to them, though it would have been no use, they were so

far off, I saw a huge thing like a man, walk out in the sea as fast as he could, as if to reach the boat. He was up to his knees in the waves, and took great strides; but our men had half a league the start of him, and as the sea at that place was full of sharp rocks, he could not come up with them. This I was told, for I durst not stay to see the end of this scene, but ran back as fast as I could the way I first went, then up a steep hill, from which I could get a good view of the land. I saw that fine crops grew on it, but could not tell what to make of the great height of the grass, which, in those grounds that must have been kept for hay, was four times as high as my head.

In the course of my walk I came to what I took to be a high road, though it was but a foot path through a field of grain, for the men of the land. I had to walk an hour to reach the end of this field, but could not see much, for the corn rose so high as to cut off the view at the sides of the path.

There was a stile to pass from this field to the next. It had four steps and a stone to cross

when you came to the top. I did not try to climb this stile, as each step was six feet high, and the top stone was twice ten feet. While I tried to find some gap in the hedge that fenced



A HUGE THING LIKE A MAN WALKED IN THE SEA.

in this field, I saw in the next field one of the men, who came near the stile. He was the same size as the great man I saw in the sea; as tall as a church spire, and, as near as I could guess,

took ten yards at each stride. I was struck with great fear, and ran to hide in the corn, whence I saw him at the top of the stile, while he cast his eyes in the next field on the right; and I heard him call in such a loud voice, and the noise was so high in the air, that at first I thought it must come from the clouds. Soon I saw six huge things like him, come near, with reap hooks in their hands, each hook five times as large as a scythe. These men were not so well clad as the first, whose serfs or slaves they must have been, for when he spoke to them they went to reap the field of corn where I lay.

I kept from them as far as I could, but soon found that I could not move fast, for the corn was so large and stood so thick in the rows that it was hard work to squeeze through. Still on I went, till I came to a place where the corn had been laid low by the rain and wind. Here I could not move one step, for the stalks were so bent down as to stop me, while the beards of the ears were so long and sharp as to pierce through my clothes and stick in my flesh. At the same

time I heard the men close in my rear, and as I was quite worn out with toil, and cast down by grief, I fell to the earth and thought I would be glad to die there. I wept at the thought of the dear ones at home, and could but moan to think how wrong I had done when I left home on this trip, and that, too, while all I had gone through ere this was still so fresh on my mind.

Full as I was of fear, these thoughts still ran through my head when one of the men came in ten yards of the ridge where I lay, and made me fear that with the next step he would crush me 'neath his great foot, or else cut me in two with his reap hook. So when he went to move I cried out as loud as fear could make me, on which he trod short, cast his eyes round him, and at last saw me as I lay on the ground. He stood and thought for a while like one who would lay hold on a small but vile beast in such a way that it may not scratch or bite him.

At last he made bold to take me by the coat in the back near the waist, and held me up three yards from his eyes, that he might see me well,

and though his grip in my side gave me pain, yet I thought best not to strive in the least while he held me so high in the air, lest I should fall through his hands. All I dared do was to raise my eyes to the sun, place my hands as if to pray, and speak some words in a meek tone, for with each breath I thought he might dash me to the earth and kill me. But my good star would have it that my voice and acts gave him joy. In the mean time, I could but groan and shed tears, and turn my head to my sides, to let him know as well as I could, how he hurt me by the grip of his hand. I think he knew what I meant, for he put me with care in the breast of his coat, and ran with me to the man I had first seen in the field.

The serf, as I guessed from their talk, then told the man of the farm where I had been found, when he took a piece of straw the size of a staff to walk with and threw up the front of my coat, which it seems he thought was some kind of shield that grew on my back. He then blew back my hair, that he might get a good view of my face.

He said to the serfs, who by this time had all come up to see the strange sight, "Have you in all your life seen a thing like this in the fields?" He set me on the ground on all fours, but I got up and went back and forth in front of them, to let them know I did not wish to run off. They all sat down in a ring near me, that they might see my acts. I took off my hat and made a low bow to the boor (as I shall call the man of the farm), I fell on my knees, threw up my hands and eyes, and spoke a few words as loud as I could, and took out a purse of gold and gave it to him. He took it on the palm of his hand, brought it close to his eyes to see what it was, and threw it from side to side with the point of a pin that he took from his sleeve, but could by none of these means tell what to make of it.

I made a sign that he should place his hand on the ground. I then took the purse and put all the gold in his palm. I saw him take up one of the large coins and bring it up close to his eyes, but as he was still at a loss to know of what use they could be, he made me a sign to

put the gold back in the purse and keep it. This I thought best to do, since he would not have it.

The boor spoke to me, but the sound of his voice was to my ears like that of a mill, yet his words were quite clear. I spoke back to him as loud as I could, and though he brought his ear quite near to me, yet it was all in vain; he did not know what my words meant.

He then sent his men back to their work, and took out a cloth from his coat, spread it on his left hand, which he put flat on the ground, with the palm up, and made me a sign to step on it. This I did with ease, for it was not more than a foot thick. I thought it my part to do as I was bid, and, for fear I should fall, laid down at full length on the cloth, the rest of which he spread on me to keep me still more safe, and in this way took me to his house.

CHAPTER II.

WHEN we came to his house he threw back the cloth that his wife, who stood in the door, might



I MADE A LOW BOW TO THE BOOR.

see me, but she threw up her hands with a scream and ran back, as I have seen girls do at sight of a toad. At length, when she had seen my acts, and how well I knew the signs made me, she came to have less fear, and in time grew to be quite kind to me.

It was twelve at noon, and a man brought in their meal. There was but one dish of meat (fit for the plain state of those who live on a farm), in a dish that was two score feet long. Those who sat at the board were the man, his wife, one boy and two girls. When they had all sat down the man put me in front of him on the board, which was a score and ten feet high from the floor. I was in a great fright, and kept as far as I could from the edge, lest I should fall off.

The dame cut up a small piece of meat, and put it with some crumbs of bread on a plate that she set in front of me. I made her a low bow, took out my knife and fork, and ate the meat and bread with such a zest as to give them great joy. She sent her maid for a small cup, that held near

eight quarts. In this she gave me drink. I took up the cup in both hands and drank to the health of the dame, while I spoke the words in my own tongue as loud as I could. This made them all laugh so loud I thought I should be deaf from the noise.

The boor made me a sign to come to his side, but as I went to him I struck my foot, by chance, on a crust of bread, and fell flat on my face.



HE HELD ME HIGH IN THE AIR.

I got up at once, and as I saw they were all in much dread, I took my hat and waved it in the air, while I gave three cheers to show I was not hurt by my fall.

But as I went to the man his young son, who sat next him, and who was an arch lad of ten years, took me up by my legs and held me so

high that I shook with fright. The boor took me from him, gave him such a box on the left ear as would have thrown to the earth a troop of our best horse, and at the same time bade him leave the room.

But for fear the boy should owe me a spite, for well I knew how bad some boys are apt to be in the way they treat birds, hares, young cats, and dogs, I fell on my knees, and made signs to let the man know my wish, that he should not blame his son.

The boor thought best to grant my wish, and let the boy take his seat. When he saw that I took the boy's hand to kiss it, he made his son stroke me with his hand, to soothe my fears.

In the midst of the meal, the dame's pet cat leaped on her lap. I heard a noise near me like two or three looms at work. I soon found that the noise was made by the cat, which was three times as large as an ox. The sight of this huge cat put me in a great fright, though I stood as far off as I could get, and though the dame held

her fast, lest she might give a spring and seize me in her claws.

At last, to see what the cat would do, the man took me up and set me down just three yards



I WALKED BEFORE THE VERY HEAD OF THE CAT.

from her. As I have heard and found to be true in my life, that to run or show fear of a fierce beast is a sure way to make it bite or chase you, so I made up my mind to be calm. I went five

or six times in front of her head, and at last, when I came quite near her, she drew back in fear.

When the meal was near its close the nurse came in with a child a year old in her arms. This child at once saw me, and set up a squall that one might have heard for miles, while he held out his hands to get me to play with. The dame, out of a pure wish to please the child, took me up and put me near him, when he seized me by the waist and soon had my head in his mouth. Here my loud roar gave him such a scare that he let me drop, and I should no doubt have met my death by the fall, if the dame had not held her skirt to catch me.

At the close of the meal the boor went off to the fields; but ere he went, gave his wife a strict charge (as I knew by his voice and acts) to take good care of me. When she saw how much I was in need of sleep and rest, she put me on her own bed, and spread on me a clean white cloth as large and coarse as the sail of a man of war.

I slept two hours, and dreamed I was at home with my wife and dear ones, which but made

my grief the worse when I woke and found I was so far from home, in a vast room, on a great high bed a score of yards wide, and with no one near me to whom I could speak with the hope that my thoughts would be known.

The dame had gone to her house work, and had thought best to lock the door. The bed was eight yards from the floor. I had a wish to leave the room, but durst not call.

While I lay there in this state of mind, two rats crept up and ran back and forth on the bed. One ran up so near my face that I drew out my



I GAVE HIM A WOUND AS HE FLED.

sword to ward him off. These dread brutes were so brave that they came at me on both sides, and one of them put his fore feet on my neck,

but I had the good luck to give him a stout blow ere he could hurt me. He fell at my feet, and his mate made his way off, but not until I had dealt him a good wound on the back, which I gavè him as he fled.

These rats were the size of a large dog, but much more quick and fierce; so that if I had not slept with my sword at my side, I have no doubt they would have torn me to pieces, and thus made an end of me. I took the length of the dead rat's tail, and found it to be two yards long, but could not have the nerve to draw it off the bed, where it lay, still in its blood. I saw that it was not yet dead, but with a strong slash on its neck, I put an end to its life.

When the dame came in and saw the blood on my clothes she ran and took me up in her hands to see if I was hurt. With a smile, I made a sign, that she might see the dead rats, and know no harm had come to me. At this she was glad, and bade her maid come in and take up the dead rats with a pair of tongs, and throw them out of the house.

CHAPTER III.

THE dame had a girl nine years old, a bright child for her age. The dame, with the aid of this girl, made me a bed by night out of the babe's crib. The crib was put in a chest, and the chest, for fear of the rats, was set on a shelf that hung from the wall.

This was my bed all the time I was at this place, though made more to my taste from time to time, as I could make my wants known to them. The girl made me six shirts of as fine cloth as could be found, though it was as thick and coarse as that of which sacks are made. These shirts she kept clean with her own hands. She taught me to speak in their tongue. She would point to a thing and then tell me the name of it, so that in a few days I knew the names of most of things that I saw. She was not more than two score feet high, as she was small of her age. To her I, in the main, owe my life while in that land; she was with me

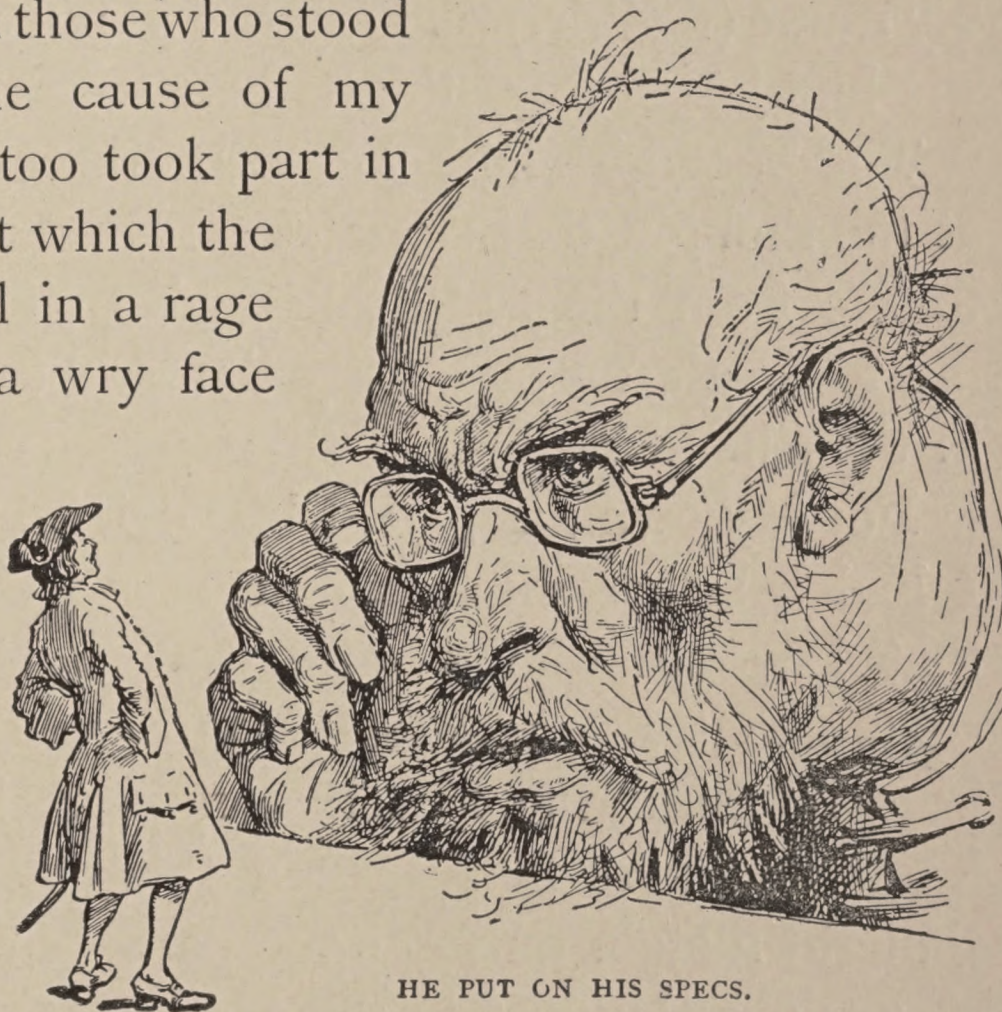
all the while, and was at all times as kind as could be; and I should prove to be most base should I fail to speak in kind terms of her love and care of me, which I wish I could by some means let her know I still bear in mind.

It was now known, and soon came to be the talk of the men for miles round, that the boor had found a strange thing in the field; that it had in all parts the shape of a man, whom it was like in its acts; that it spoke in words of its own; could speak some of their words; stood up straight on two feet; was tame and kind; would come at a call, do as it was bid, and had as fair a skin as the son of a lord, three years old.

A man who lived on a farm near by, and who was a friend of the boor, came to the house one day to learn the truth of this tale. I was at once brought out and put on a stand, where I went back and forth, drew my sword, put it back in its sheath, made my bow to the guest, said "How do you do?" and "We are glad to see you," just as my nurse had taught me.

The man, who was old and dim of sight, put on his specs that he might see me well, at which I could but laugh, for his eyes were to me like two full moons, so large and round did they look. When those who stood by knew the cause of my mirth, they too took part in the laugh, at which the old man fell in a rage and made a wry face at me.

The old man told the boor it would be a good plan, one from which he could



HE PUT ON HIS SPECS.

make a large sum of gold to show me as a strange sight on a sale day in the next town, which was but a half hour's ride, not more than a score of miles from our house. I thought there was some

ill thing for me on their minds when I saw them talk for a long while, with now and then a glance at me; and my fears made me think that I heard and knew some of their words. The next day my nurse (the girl) told me the whole thing, which she had heard from the dame.

The poor girl laid me on her breast and wept at the thought that some great harm would come to me from the rude folks, who might squeeze me to death, or break my limbs if they took me in their hands.

For my own part, I felt less grief than she did. I had a strong hope, which at no time left me, that I would one day be free; and as to the shame that I would feel if put up for a show, I bore in mind the fact that no one in the land knew me, and that such a thing could not be thought a stain on my good name, since the king of my own land, if in the same state, must have borne the same ills.

The next sale day the boor took me and the girl, my nurse, to the town. I went in a box that he took in his lap, while she rode on the

horse with him. The girl had put the quilt of the babe's bed in the box for me to lie down on. Yet in spite of this care I found the ride to be



I WAS BROUGHT IN A BOX.

quite rough, for the horse took in two score feet at each stride, and his steps were so high

it was like the rise and fall of a ship in a storm.

The boor made a stop at an inn, and when he had had a talk with the man who kept it, and made such plans as he thought best, he paid a man to go out and tell through the town that a strange thing could be seen at the sign of the Great Hawk, a thing not so big as a *plac nuck* (a beast in that land of fine shape, six feet long); in all parts like a man in shape; could speak some words, and do scores of fine tricks.

In the mean time, I was set on a stand in a large room of the inn. My nurse stood by my side on a low stool close to the stand, that she might take care of me and tell me what to do. That the crowd might not be too large, the boor would not let more than a score and ten men come in the room at one time.

I went back and forth on the stand, as the girl bade me, and spoke in as loud a tone as I could all that she had taught me to speak. I made my bows to them, said: "We are glad to see you," and drank to their health.

I was that day shown to twelve sets of guests, and each time had to go through the same thing, till I was half dead with pain and grief, for those who had once seen me, told such fine tales when they went out, that the men made as if they would break down the doors if they could not get in.

The boor, for his own good, would let no one but my nurse touch me; and to keep them off, seats were set round the stand in such a way as to put me quite out of the reach of all. Yet a rude boy threw a nut at my head, which, if it had struck me, would have put an end to my life, for the nut was three times as large as my head. You may guess I was glad to see him put out of the room.

The boor gave out that he would show me on the next sale day, and we went back home. I was so worn out with the ride, and with the part I was made to play for eight hours at a time, that I could not but with great pain stand on my feet or speak a word. It was at least three days ere I got back my strength; and that I might

have no rest at home, all the men from miles and miles round came to see me there.

When the boor found that I bid fair to bring him so much gold, he made up his mind to take me to some of the great towns of the realm. Soon we set out for the chief town, which was quite a long ride from our house.

The boor made my nurse ride with him on the same horse. She sat at his back and took me on her lap in a box tied round her waist. She had lined this box on all sides with soft cloth, put the babe's bed in, and made all as much to my taste as she could. There was no one with us but a boy that rode by our side and took care of our goods.

We made short rides of not more than eight score miles a day, for my kind nurse, that she might spare me the pain of long rides, said that the rough gait of the horse made her quite tired. She oft took me out of my box that I might have fresh air, and at the same time view the land through which we went, but at all times held me by a strong string.

We were ten weeks on this trip, and I was shown in two score large towns, and a few small ones.

CHAPTER IV.

It was late in the year when we came to the chief town, to which they give a name that means Pride of the World.

The man took rooms on one of their great streets, not far from the house of the king.

In the large room in which he was to show me, he put a high stand, round the edge of which there was a ledge three feet high, that I might not fall off. Here I was shown ten times a day to the vast crowds that came to see me.

But work such as I went through day by day made, in a few weeks, a great change in my health, for the more the man got by me the more did his greed grow. I had lost my wish for

food, and had grown to be so thin as to give one pain to look on my frame. The man saw this, and as he thought I must soon die, he made up his mind to get as much gold from me as he could.

Just at this time word was sent to the boor that he must take me at once to the house of the king, that the queen and her maids might see me. Some of the maids at court had been to see me, and had told strange things of my good looks.

When we came to the court, all were full of joy at the sight. I fell on my knees and sought to kiss the foot of the queen, but when I was put on a stand near her she held out her hand to me, which I took in both my arms and put the tip of it to my lips.

She spoke to me of my own land, and the parts of the earth that I had seen, to all which I spoke back as well as I could.

She then said: "Would you like to live at court?" I bent my head low and said; "I am the slave of the man of the farm, but if I were free to choose my own mode of life I would be proud to serve you."

“Would you,” she said to the boor, “sell him to me if I give you a good price?”

He, who thought I could not live a month, was glad to part with me, and so he told her she might have me for a large sum of gold, that was paid to him on the spot.

When this was done I said to the queen: “Since I am now to serve you, I must beg that you will be so kind as to let my nurse, who is so kind, and knows so well how to tend my wants, still stay with me, and teach me.”

The queen thought best to grant my wish; the boor was glad to have her live at court, while the poor girl could not hide her joy.

The man now took leave of me, and said: “I leave you in good hands.” To which I said not a word, but made him a slight bow.

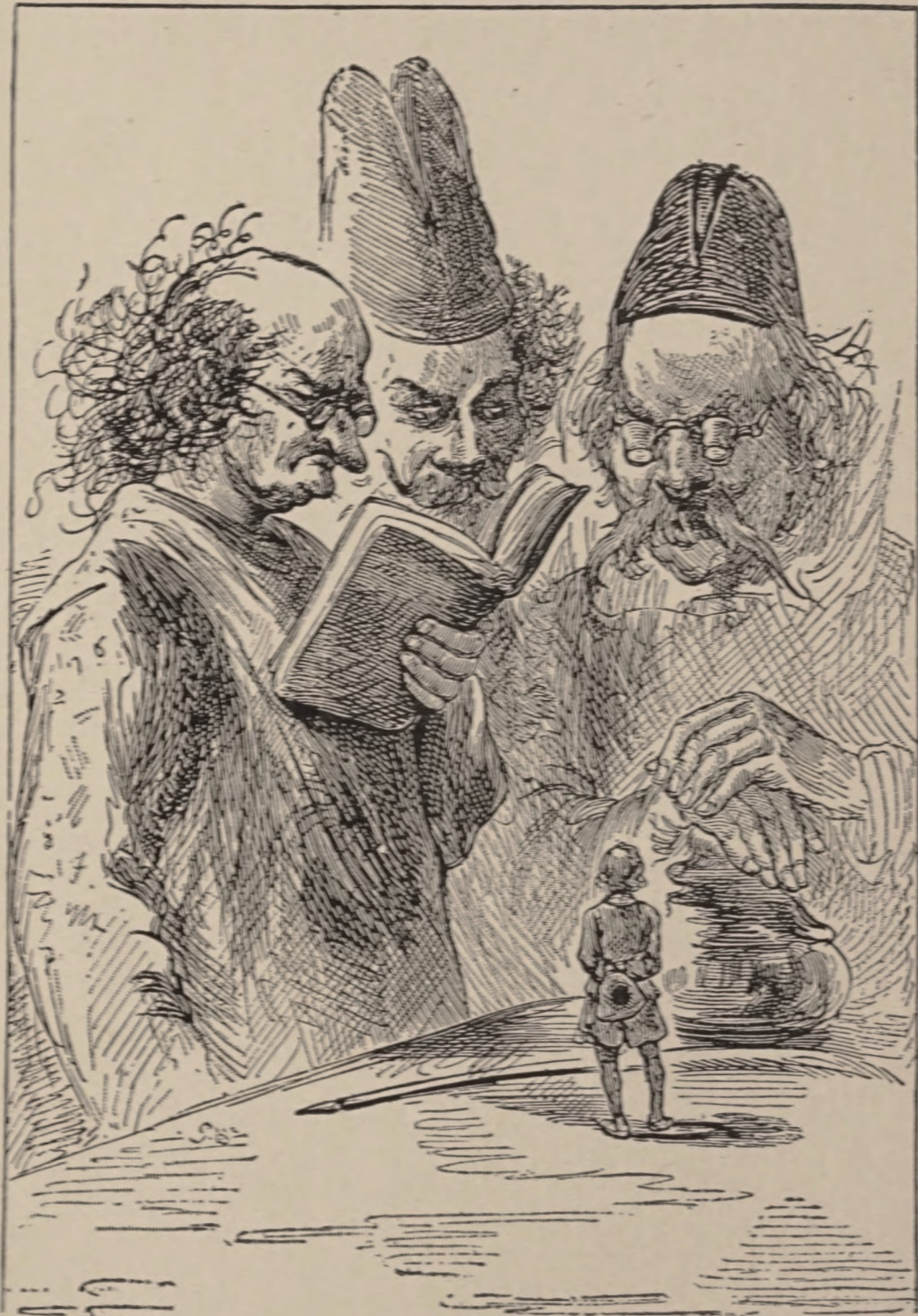
The queen took me in her hand and brought me to the king, who was in his own room. The king, a prince of grave and harsh looks, said to the queen in a cold way: “How long since you grew fond of a *plac nuck*?” for such it seem she took me to be as I lay on my breast in her hand.

But the queen, who had a vast deal of wit and fun, set me on my feet on a stand in front of him, and bade me tell the king who I was and where I came from, all of which I did in a few words. My nurse, who stood at the door, for she could not bear I should be out of her sight, now came in and told what she knew of me since I came to her house.

The king, though he is well taught and as wise a man as there is in his realm, yet when he first saw my shape, and saw me walk on my feet, ere he heard me speak, thought me to be a piece of clock work made by some man of great skill. But he could not hide how much he was struck, when he heard me speak, and found that what I said was full of good sense.

His mind was by no means set at rest by what I told him of how I came to his land, but he thought it a tale made up by the man of the farm and his girl, who had taught me a set of words to make me sell at a good price.

The king then sent for three of his wise men who were at court; but when they had spent



THE THREE WISE MEN.

hours in long talks, and the king's mind was still in doubt as to what I was, I let them know my wish to be heard in a few words. I spoke to the king and said; "I came from a land where there are vast crowds of men of the same size as I am, and where all things, the beasts, trees, and plants, are all in due size with the men."

At this they did but smile and say: "You have been taught your tale quite well."

The king now let his wise men go, and sent for the man of the farm, who by good chance had not yet gone out of town. When he found that the tale told by the boor was in all parts the same as that told him by me and the young girl, he could but think that it must be true. He bade the queen take good care of me, and thought the girl should still tend me, as he saw she had a great love for me, and I was fond of her.

The queen bade one of her men make me a box that might serve me as a bed room. This was to be made by a plan that my nurse and I should give him. He was a man of much skill, and in three weeks it was done. It was of a

good size to suit my form, was made of wood, and had glass lights and a door like the bed rooms in my own land.

The board that made the top could be moved up and down by two hinges, to put in a bed which my nurse took out each day to air, and made it up with her own hands. She let it down at night and made the roof fast.

A man famed for his skill in small things made me two chairs, two stands, and a kind of chest to keep my things in.

A thick, soft cloth was put on all sides of the room as well as the floor and top, so that I would not be hurt by the want of care from those who might move me from place to place; and to break the force of a jolt when I went in a coach. I thought best to lock my door at night, lest the rats and mice should come in and eat me up.

The queen had me a suit of clothes made of silk as thin as could be found, though it was as thick as a bed-spread in our land. The suit was in the style worn by the men of the realm, and

though quite thick, and not much to my taste at first, yet was quite a grave, nice suit.

The queen soon grew to be so fond of me that she could not dine save when I was near her, so she had a stand and a chair for me to sit on, put just at her side, on the board at which she sat to dine. My nurse stood on a stool on the floor, near me, to help my plate and take care of me. I had a whole set of dishes and plates, which, when seen by the side of the queen's dishes, were like toys for a doll's house.

The queen was pleased to see me eat, for I took such wee bits of food at a time. She put in her mouth at one time as much as twelve men of my land could eat at a meal. Such a sight made me sick. She could craunch the wing of a lark, bones and all, with her teeth, though it was nine times as large as that of a full grown goose; and could put a piece of bread in her mouth as big as two of our large loaves. She drank from a cup of gold that held as much as a wine keg, and her knives were twice as large as a scythe would be if made straight

CHAPTER V.

ON one day in each week it was the rule of the court that the queen and the young princes should dine in the great hall with the king, and at such times my chair and stand were set at his left hand in front of one of the salt boxes. This prince was glad to talk with me of the laws, books, etc., of my land. His mind was so clear that his thoughts on what I told him were at all times wise. But once, when I had been too free in my talk.



I HAD SOME TALKS WITH THE KING.

of our trade and wars by sea and land, and of our schisms in the state, his love for his own land was so great that he could but take me up in his right hand, while with a loud laugh he said, "Tell me, are you a *whig* or not?"

Then to his chief lord of state, who stood near him with a white staff as tall as the mast of a ship, he said, "How vain are all the grand things of earth, when such mites as this can ape them. And yet I dare say they have their ranks, their lords, and their slaves; they make nests that they call houses and towns; they make a show in dress; they love; they fight; they cheat just as we do." And thus he went on, while the red of my cheek came and went more than once, so full was I of wrath to hear him speak thus of our own great land, the seat of arts and arms, yes, of all that is good and true, and the pride and joy of the whole earth.

Yet when I gave his words more thought, I came to doubt if what he had said might not be in some part true. When I had been for two or three months used to the sight of these men, and

seen that all things on which I cast my eyes were of the same great size, the hate I at first felt for their huge bulk was worn off. If I had then seen



THE KING HAD CONCERTS AT COURT.

a crowd of lords, like those in my own land, in their fine clothes act their parts with strut and bow and pride, I should have wished to laugh at

them as the king and his lords now did at me. Nor could I keep back a smile when the queen would place me on her hand in front of a glass, in which we could both be seen at the same time, so that I could but think I was not so large as I had once been.

There was no one thing that threw me in such a rage as the queen's dwarf, who, as he was the least man in the realm (I think he was not more than a score and ten feet high), grew so pert when he saw me so much less than he was, that he would try to put on airs and look big as he went by me in the queen's hall, while I stood on a stand to talk with the lords of the court.

He did not pass me but he had a word to say of my size. At such times I could do no more than taunt him with such threats as are used by court pages.

One day this mean cub was thrown in such a rage by what I said to him, that he stood on the queen's chair and took me up by the waist and let me drop in a bowl of cream, and then ran off as fast as he could. I fell in head and ears, and

but for the fact that I knew how to swim it might have gone hard with me, for my nurse was in a far off part of the great room, and the queen was in such a fright she could not help me.

The girl ran and took me out, but not till more than a quart of the cream had gone down



HE DROPPED ME IN A BOWL OF CREAM.

my throat. I was put to bed, though with no worse hurt than the loss of a suit of clothes. The dwarf was made to drink up the bowl of cream, nor did the queen like him so well from this time, but soon gave him to a friend, and to my great joy I saw him no more.

He had ere this served me a mean trick, which, though it gave the queen a good laugh, yet it

vexed her so much that she would have sent him off then if I had not been so kind as to beg her not to do so.

One day, while the queen sat at tea, she took on her plate a large bone from which she cut a slice, and then set it on end in the dish. The dwarf, on the watch for his chance while my nurse was not near, got up on her stool, took me in both hands, and thrust me in the bone up to my waist, where I stuck for some time with such a grave face as would have made you laugh. They did not soon find where I was, for I would not deign to cry out for help, but as the queen does not at all times get her meals hot my legs were not burnt, but my socks and pants were in a sad state.

The queen would now and then taunt me on my fear, and ask me if all the men of my land were as faint of heart as I was. The cause of it was this: there are in that land such vast swarms of flies, each fly as big as a lark, that while I sat at my meals, they gave me no rest with their hum and buzz in my ears. They would light on my food and leave their foul spawn on it, which I

could see quite well, though the men there could not see it, as their eyes are not made to see small things. They would light on my nose and face where they stung me to the quick, and I had such



A MEAN TRICK.

hard work to keep them off, that the queen thought it great fun to see me start and jump when they came on my face.

The dwarf would catch both hands full of these vile things, as I have seen school boys do, and then let them loose near my nose to give me a fright and make the queen laugh.

I still bear in mind one fine day my nurse set me in my box out in the fresh air, and I had thrown up my sash and sat down to eat a piece of cake, when more than a score of wasps, drawn by the smell of the cake, came in my room. The hum of each one was as loud and harsh as that of a Scotch bag-pipe. Some of them took my cake and bore it off piece by piece. Some flew near my head and face, and gave me a great scare with their noise, and the thought of their stings, yet I was so brave as to draw my sword and strike at them in the air. Four of them fell dead, but the rest got off, and I soon shut down my sash.

These wasps were as large as quails, and when I took out their stings, I found them to be an inch and a half long, and as sharp as pins. I took the best care of them, and have since shown them with some rare things, in more than one

part of the world. When I went back home I gave three of them to a great school, and kept the fourth as my own.



WASPS FLEW IN THE ROOM.

CHAPTER VI.

To speak the truth, I should have done quite well in that land, if my small size had not brought on me so much ill luck, some of which you may like to hear of.

On fine days, my nurse would take me in my box out on the grounds of the court, and now and then would take me from the box, hold me in her hand or set me down that I might walk on the ground. Once, ere the dwarf left the queen, he was with us, on one of these walks, and while he and I were both near some dwarf peach trees, I must needs show my wit by some words that threw him in a great rage. On which the mean rogue, while I was neath one of the trees, took hold of it and shook it with such force, that ten or twelve peaches, each as large as a cask, came down on my head. One hit me on my back and threw me flat on my face, but I was not much hurt. At my wish, the queen let this

crime of the dwarf pass, as I was the just cause of his wrath.

One day I was left on a smooth grass plat, while my nurse went off with some friends. In the mean time there came up such a storm of



SHE TOOK ME IN HER HAND.

hail, that I was at once struck to the earth by its force; and when I was down, the stones still gave such hard pelts as to cause me great pain. At last, I got out of their reach on the lee side

of a bed of thyme to which I crept on all fours, but so sore was I from head to foot that I did not leave my room for ten days.

But once when we were in the same grounds I had a still worse fright. My nurse put me in what she thought was a safe place, and went off, which I was glad to have her do, that I might be free to give way to my own thoughts. While she was gone, a small white dog got by chance on the lawn, and came near where I lay, took me up in his mouth and ran straight to the man who had the care of the grounds, and with a wag of his tail, set me down in front of him. By good luck, he had been so well taught, that I was not in the least hurt. But the poor man who knew me well was in a great fright. He took me up in both hands to see how I did, but I was so out of breath that I could not speak a word. He took me safe to my nurse, who by this time had come back to the place where she left me, and was full of grief when she did not find me, and still more when I did not come at her call. This thing was not told at court for

fear of the queen's wrath; and as for my own part, I thought it would not be best for my good name that such a tale should be known.



ONE OF THEM HIT ME ON THE BACK.

From this time, my nurse made up her mind that at no time would she trust me out of her

sight when not in my box. I had long thought she might do this, and so kept from her more than one sad thing that it fell to my lot to bear.

Once a kite that flew through the grounds, made a stoop at me, and if I had not drawn my sword and run to a thick hedge he would have borne me off in his claws.

One day as I went to the top of a fresh mole hill, I fell to my neck in the hole, and then told some child's tale as the cause of the dirt on my clothes. Then, too, I broke my right shin on a snail's shell that was in my path as I went one day through the court yard lone and sad, with my thoughts far off in my own dear land.

I can not tell if it gave me more pride or shame to see, in these lone walks that I now and then took, that the birds, in their search for food, would hop in my path just as though no one was near them. Once a thrush was so brave as to snatch out of my hand a piece of cake and fly off with it.

When I tried to catch these birds they would turn on me and try to peck my hands, and then



THEY WOULD TURN ON ME AND PECK MY HANDS.

hop back as calm as you please to hunt for worms or snails.

But one day I took a thick club, and threw it with all my strength and with so much skill at a small bird that I brought him down, then took him by the neck and ran with him in great pride to my nurse, though while on the way the bird, which was not dead, gave me such strong blows with his wings that I thought oft and oft I must let him go. But one of the cooks soon came to my aid and wrung off his head, and the next day, when I went to dine, I found that the queen had had a nice roast made of it. This, though one of their small birds, was as large as our swans.

The queen, who now and then had heard me speak of my sails on the sea, and who at all times was glad to do what she could to turn my mind from sad thoughts of home and friends, said to me one day: "Do you know how to row or sail a boat? Would not a sail now and then be good for your health?"

"Yes," I said, "I know how to row a boat, and would be glad to have one, but do not see

how this can be done here, where your small boats are as large as our men of war, while such a boat as I could row would not live in your large streams."

To this she said: "If you will plan a boat of a size and shape to suit you, I will have it made and see that you have a place in which to sail it."

The men who were set to the work had so much skill that, with my aid, the boat was done in ten days. It could have held ten men of my size. When the queen first saw it she was so full of joy that she ran with it in her hands to the king, who said that the boat, with me in it, must be put in a large cask filled with the clear fluid that we drink, so that he could see me use it. But this cask was too small.

The queen then had a trough made of wood, and so long and wide that it gave me all the room I could need. This trough, which was too tight and strong to leak, was set on the floor near the wall in one of the rooms of the king's house. It had a cock in the side to let off the

fluid, that it might not grow stale, and two men could fill it in half an hour.

In this trough my boat was put, and here I would row it by the hour, both for my own sport and to please the queen and her maids, who were much struck with the ease and skill with which I could row my boat. At times I would put up the sails, and then I had but to steer while the maids gave me a gale with their fans, and when they grew tired of this some of their pages would blow the sails with their breath, while I could steer to right or left as I might please. When I had done, the nurse took the boat to her room and hung it on a nail to dry.

One day, as I went out to take a sail in my boat, which one of the pages had put in the trough for me, the maid who was with nurse took me up to place me in the boat, when by chance I slipped through her hands, and should have had a fall of two score feet if by the best luck in the world I had not been caught by a pin that stuck in the maid's dress. The head of the pin caught in my clothes near the waist, and

there I hung in the air till nurse came and took me down.

One day the man who had to fill my trough each third day, let a huge frog that he did not see, slip out of the pail in to the trough. The frog lay hid till I got in my boat, then it came up on the side, which made it lean so much that I found it hard to keep the boat right side up. When, at last, the



THE FROG GETS IN THE BOAT.

frog got in, it at once made a leap half the length of the boat, and then went back and

forth from side to side, and each time gave my face and clothes a daub with its slime. The size of its eyes, mouth, and nose, made it look the most ill-made thing that can be thought of. I beat at it a good while with one of my oars, and at last, made it leap out of the boat.

But the worst risk I ran in that land was from an ape that staid with one of the clerks of the cook room.

My nurse had set my box in her room and gone off. As the day was quite warm, the sash of her room, as well as those of my box, was thrown up, that the fresh air might come in. The door, too, of my box was not shut. While I sat by my stand wrapt in thought, I heard a noise as of some one bounce in the room and skip from side to side, at which, though I was full of fear, yet was so brave as to look out, then I saw the ape frisk and jump and leap up and down till at last he came to my box, at which he gave a look of much joy. I went to the back side of my box, but the ape would still peep in at all sides and put me in such a fright that I had not

the sense to hide from him, as I might have done. At last, he saw me and thrust one of his paws in at the door, as a cat does when she plays with a mouse, and though I went from place to place to keep out of his reach, he at length caught hold of the front of my coat (which, as it was made of the silk of that land, was quite thick and strong), and drew me out of the room. He took me up in his right fore paw, and held me as a



THE APE DREW ME OUT.

nurse does a child, and just as I have seen apes do with a cat in my own land, and when I tried

to get loose he gave me such a tight squeeze that I thought it more wise to lie still.

I have good cause to think he took me to be a young ape, from the way in which he would stroke my face with his left paw.

While he thus spent his time, a noise as of some one at the door, gave him such a fright, that he leaped from the room, and on to the wall of a house that stood next to ours, thence up to the roof. I heard nurse give a shriek just as the ape sprang from the room. The poor girl was wild with fear; the men in that part of the house came out with a great cry; and some ran for sets of steps to put up to the sides of the house.

Scores of men in the court saw the ape as he sat on the ridge of the house, and held me like a babe in his arms, and fed me with some vile food that he took out of the bag on one side of his chaps. They saw him pat me when I would not eat, at which they burst out in a great laugh, nor could I blame them, for in truth the sight was full of fun to all but me.

Some of the men threw up stones with the

hope that they could thus drive the ape down, but an end was soon put to this, else my brains had been dashed out.

The steps were now put to the side of the house, and two or three men came up, which when the ape saw, and found they would soon take him, since he could not make much speed with his three legs, let me drop on a ridge tile and ran off. Here I sat for some time at a vast height from the ground, and in great fear that I should be blown off by the wind or fall by my own want of care, but, at length, a good lad, one of my nurse's pages, came up, put me in the breast of his coat, and thus took me down safe.

I was well nigh dead with the foul stuff the ape had thrust down my throat, but my dear nurse took as much of it as she could out of my mouth with a small pin; I then cast up what had gone down my throat, and felt much more at ease. But I was so weak and full of bruises in the sides, from the hurts that the mean ape gave me, I kept my bed for two weeks.

The king, the queen, and all the court sent

each day to ask of my health; and the queen was so kind as to come to see me more than once while I was sick. The ape was put to death, and the king made a law that no more such things should be brought to the court.

When I got well, I went to see the king to thank him for his kind thoughts while I was ill. I found him in the mood to tease me.

“What were your thoughts,” said he, “while you lay in the ape’s paws? How did you like the food he gave you? Did the fresh air on the roof make you feel as if in need of food? What would you have done in a like case in your own land?”

“We have no apes,” said I, “save a few that are brought there from strange lands as a show, and these so small that I could deal with twelve of them at one time if they should try to hurt me. And as for that huge ape with which I had my late spree (it was four times as large as a bear), if my fears had let me think so far as to make use of my good sword (with a fierce look I grasped the hilt as I spoke) when he thrust his

paw in my room, I would have struck him such a blow as would have made him glad to take it out with more haste than he put it in."

All this I spoke in a firm tone, like a man who has fears lest his pluck will be brought in doubt. But my fine speech did naught but call forth a loud laugh from all in court. This made me think how vain it is for a man to try to win fame from those who are no match for him in size or rank. And yet I have not a few times seen the truth of this since I came back home, where a poor page, with not the least plea for rank in birth, wit, or good sense, would yet dare to strut round with pomp and pride.

CHAPTER VII.

I STILL had a strong hope that I would some day leave this land, though I could not guess at the means by which this was to be done, nor form a plan by which I could hope to get off. 'Tis true all were kind to me; I was the pet of a great

king and queen, the joy of the whole court, but these things could not fill the void in my heart made by the thoughts of the dear ones left in my own home. I had a great wish to see men with whom I could talk at ease, and be where I could walk in the streets and fields with no fear that I would be trod to death like a frog or a young dog.

While I felt that such joys would one day be mine, yet I thought of them as a great way off, but they came at a time and in a way that I did not look for them.

I had now been two years in the land, and in the first month of the third year nurse and I went with the king and queen on a trip to the south coast of his realm. I went, as I did at all times, in my small box, which, as I have said, was a small room of twelve feet wide. A man took my box, with me in it, in front of him on his horse, and to break the force of the jolts made by the high steps of the horse I had a bed, in which I slept at times while on the road, hung by silk ropes from the four sides of the box at the top. On the roof of my box there was a hole a foot

square to give me air as I slept on warm days. This hole I shut at will with a board that drew back and forth in a groove.

We came to a stop for a few days at a house which the king had near a large town not far from the sea.

Nurse and I were much worn out by the ride. I had a cold, but the poor girl was so ill that she could not leave her room.

Oh! how I did long to look once more on the sea,



MY GUARD.

for well I knew if I were to leave this land, the sea would be the means by which I would get off. I made out to be worse than I was, and went out to take the fresh air of the sea with a page, of whom I was quite fond. I shall long bear in mind how loth nurse was to let me go, and the strict charge she gave the page to take the best care of me, and how she burst in a flood of tears when I left her, as if her thoughts could warn her of what was to come.

The boy took me out in my box, half an hour's walk from the king's house, and when near the rocks by the sea I bade him set me down.

I threw up my sash and cast a sad look out on the waves. I found that I was not quite well, and told the page that I would take a nap, which I thought would do me good. I got up to my bed, which hung from the top, and the boy shut down the sash to keep out the cold.

I soon went to sleep, and all I can guess is, that while I slept the page, who thought no harm could come to me, went off in quest of birds' eggs. Be that as it may, a quick pull on the

ring in the top of the box woke me from sleep, while I felt that I was borne up and on through the air with great speed. The first jolt had like to have thrown me from my couch, but when that was past I went on with more ease. I spoke out two or three times as loud as I could raise my voice, but all to no good. There was naught to be seen through the sash but clouds and sky. I heard a sound of wings near my head, and then I knew the sad state I was in; that some great bird had got the cord of my box in his beak, with the wish to let it fall on a rock, like a crab in its shell, and then pick me out for food.

In a short time the strokes of the wings grew thick and fast, and my box was thrown up and down in the air like a sign in the wind. I heard two or three bangs or blows, as I thought made by the bird (for such I am sure it must have been that bore me up), and then all at once I felt that I fell straight down so fast that I well nigh lost my breath. My fall was cut short by a great splash that sent forth a sound like a huge gun; then I was quite in the dark for a short time, but

soon my box rose, and I could see light from the top of my sash. I now knew that my box was in the sea. I then thought, and still think, that two or three great birds gave chase to the one which bore me off, and that while he fought with them he let me drop.

But by good luck my box was so strong it did not break when it fell. Each joint of it was made to fit close, and the door did not move on hinges, but up and down like a sash, which kept my room so tight that I did not get wet.

I got down from my bed, when I had first drawn back the board from the hole in the roof, as I was well nigh dead for want of fresh air.

How I did then wish to be once more safe with my nurse! I may say with truth that in the midst of my own woe I could but think of the grief my poor nurse would feel, and how the queen would mourn when they found I was gone they knew not where.

Few men have been so long in a worse state than I was now in, when I thought that each

blast or high wave that struck my box would tear it in bits or at least turn it wrong side up in the sea. A breach in one pane of glass, would have left me no hope, but a grave 'neath the waves. Or if I should live for three or four days, what could I look for, but a still worse death from cold, and want of food.

I was in this sad state for four hours, in which I could but look for, ay, wish that each hour would be the last.

There were two strong wire loops on that side of my box where there was no sash. In these loops, the man who took me when we rode on horse-back, would put a belt and make it fast round his waist.

At last I heard, or thought I heard, a noise on that side of the box where the loops were, and soon I thought that some one did tow the box on the sea, for I now and then felt a sort of tug which made the waves rise near the top of my sash, and leave me quite in the dark. This gave me some faint hope that help was at hand, though I could not guess from whence it had come.

My chairs were all made fast to the floor by screws. I took out the screws that held one of them in place, and by much hard work made it fast to the floor 'neath the hole in the roof. I then got on the chair and put my mouth as near the hole as I could, and gave a loud call for help, in all the tongues that I knew. I then tied a piece of white cloth to a stick I had with me, thrust it up the hole, with the hope that if a ship or boat were near, the crew might see it and know some poor soul was shut up in the box.

But I found that no good came from all I could do, yet all this time I felt my box move on, and in the space of an hour or more, that side where the loops were struck on what I thought to be a rock. I now heard a noise on the roof, like that made by a rope, and heard it grate as it went through the ring, and found that I was at once drawn up three feet. I once more thrust up my cloth and stick, and cried for help till I was hoarse. I heard a great shout which made my heart so fill with joy I knew not what to do.

Next I heard the sound of feet on my roof; and through the hole there came a voice that said in the tongue of my own land, "If there is some one in here let him speak."



IS SOME ONE HERE?

To which I said, "I am a man of your land, come by ill luck to the worst state than can fall to the lot of a poor soul, and I beg by all that is good that you take me out."

"You are safe," the voice said, "for your chest is fast to our ship, and we will send a man to saw a hole in the top so large that we may pull you out."

"There is no need of that," said I, "it will take up too much time; just let one of the crew put his thumb through the ring, and take the box out of the sea in the ship."

When they heard me talk thus, some thought I was mad, and some burst out in a laugh, for I did not once think I was now with men of my own size and strength.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE man soon came with his saw, and cut a hole four feet square, then let down a small set of steps, which I went up, and was thence borne to the ship.

At first the crew could do naught but stand and gaze, but soon they thought to ask me scores of things which I felt in no mood to tell them.



THEY TAKE ME ON THE SHIP.

While I in turn could but stare at sight of such mites as I took them to be, since I had for so long seen none but the huge things in the strange land from which I had just come.

But when the man in charge of the ship saw how worn and weak I was, he took me to his own room, gave me some wine, made me lie down on his bed, and bade me take some rest, of which he saw I had great need.

Ere I went to sleep I let him know that I had some things in my box too good to be lost; a fine bed, two chairs, a stand, and a chest; that my room was hung on all sides with silk, and if he would let one of the crew bring my box on board, I would show him my goods.

When he heard me speak thus, he too thought as the crew had done, that I was mad, though to ease my mind he said it should all be done. He then went on deck, and sent some of his men down in my box, whence they drew up all my goods, and stripped off the silk, but the chairs and chest were much hurt by the rough way in which the men tore them up by force. They tore

off some of the boards from the sides of the box for the use of the ship, and then let the hull drop in the sea, where it at once sunk.

I was glad that I did not see all this, as I am sure it would have brought to mind some things that it were best I should think on no more.

I slept some hours, though sad dreams of the place I had left, and the ills I had borne in my late ride on the sea, ran through my brain. When I woke at eight o'clock at night, I found I was not so ill as I had been, and the head man of the ship had a good meal brought up to me at once. This man was as kind to me as could be, and when the men were all gone out, he said I must tell him of where I had come from, and by what chance I came to be set loose on that sea in that great chest of wood.

"At twelve o'clock at noon," said he, "as I took a look through my glass, I saw the chest far off, but thought it was a sail, which I had a mind to make, as it was not much out of my course; but when I found it was not a sail I sent out the long boat to see what it was. The men came

back in a fright and swore that they had seen a house that swam on the waves. I could but laugh at this tale, but got in the boat and went with them.

As the day was calm we went round the chest and saw all parts of it well. I then bade the men row up to that side on which I had seen the wire loops, put the rope we had brought with us through these loops, and tow the chest to the ship. When we came to the ship I told the men to put a rope through the ring in the top and raise it up, but with all their strength the whole crew could not lift it more than three feet. In the mean time we saw the white cloth wave in the air, and thought some poor man was shut up there."

"Did you, or the crew," I then said, "see a great bird in the air, at the time you first saw me?"

"While you slept," said he, "I spoke to the crew of this thing, and one told me he had seen three birds fly to the north, but they were of no great size." Yet I have no doubt their small size was due to their great height.

I then said to him, "How far are we from land?"

"We are at least five score leagues," said he.

I told him he was wrong by half, for I had not left the land from whence I came more than two hours ere I fell in the sea, at which he gave me a hint that I could not be in my right mind and bade me go to bed. I told him with a firm voice that I had no more need of sleep just now, and was as much in my senses as a man could be, at which he grew grave, and said, "Let me be free to ask you this one thing, is there not on your mind the thought of a great crime, for which some prince had you shut up in that box and thrown out on the waves? Though I would not choose to take so ill a man on board, yet I pledge you my word I will, if you wish, set you safe on shore in the first port to which we come."

He thought best to add, "These doubts were made in my mind by some strange speeches you made when you spoke of your chest, as well as by your odd looks and ways while we sat at tea."

I thought now was the time to tell my tale,

which I did in good faith, from the last time I left my home till the hour he first saw me; and as truth will force its way on a sound mind, so this man of some good sense could not doubt my words were true. But to prove all I had said I thought best to ask that he have my small chest brought in, for he had told me of what the crew had done with my box.

When the chest was brought up, I took out some of the rare things I had brought with me. There were combs I had made from the stumps of the king's beard, in one of which the hairs were stuck in a piece of the queen's thumb nail for the back. There were some pins from a foot to half a yard long; four wasp stings an inch and a half long; a gold ring that the queen one day gave me, as she took it from her hand with much grace and threw it round my neck like a collar. I thought to make him a gift of this ring, but he would not take it.

And last of all I bade him look at the pants I then had on, which were made of the skin of a mouse.

I could force none of my rare things on him but a page's tooth, which I saw him look at with much care, and found he would like to own it. He took it with more thanks than such a thing was worth. This tooth was a foot long and four inches through.

When he had heard this plain tale all through he could no more doubt my mind was sound, "but," said he, "there is one thing that strikes me, which is to hear you speak so loud. Were the king and queen of that land deaf?"

I told him that it was what I had been used to for two years past, for when I spoke in that land, it was as if a man on the ground should talk with one at the top of a church spire, save when I was put on a stand or held in some one's hand. And when I first got on the ship, and the crew all stood around



A PAGE'S TOOTH.

me, I thought them to be mere mites, with voices quite low.

“When we were at tea,” said he, “I saw you look at the tea things with a sort of daze, and now and then seem as if you would burst out in a laugh, which things I knew not how to take, but thought it must be due to the state of your brain.”

“It was quite true,” said I, “and I now can not tell why I did not laugh when I saw your plates the size of a three pence, a leg of pork less than a good mouth-full, a cup not so big as the shell of a nut. For though the queen had small dishes, cups, spoons, chairs, and all things that I could use, made for me while I was in her house, yet my thoughts were so full of what I saw on all sides, that I could but wink at my own size, as men do at their own faults.”

He felt the force of my words, and said with a laugh, “It would have been worth five score pounds to see your box in the bird’s beak as it flew through the air, and to have seen it in its fall from so vast a height to the sea, was a sight

well worth the pen of good scribe, to tell it to men who will live in time to come."

We had a fine sail, and all went well. We had to stop at one or two ports for food and fresh drink, but I did not leave the ship till we came to the Downs, which we did on the third day of June, 1706.

I took a kind leave of the man in charge of the ship, and made him say he would come to see me at my own house. He was so kind as to lend me one fourth pound with which to hire a horse and guide to take me home.



I BENT DOWN TO GO IN.

While on the road I could but note how small the houses, the trees, the cows, and the men were. I had fears that I would step on each man I met, and now and then would call out

to them to stand out of the way, so that I had like to have my brains burst out for my rude speeches.

When I came to my house, for which I had to ask, one of my maids came to the door. I bent down to go in (like a goose that would pass 'neath a gate), for fear that I should strike my head. My wife ran out to meet me, and I bent down as low as her knees, with the thought that she could not reach my mouth for her kiss if I stood up straight.

My girl knelt that I might bless her, but I could not see her till she rose, as I had so long been used to stand with head up and eyes three score feet in air, and then I must needs try to take her up by the waist with one hand.

I could but look down on the maids, and the friends who were in the house, as if they had been dwarfs and I had been twelve feet high. In short, I did and said such strange things that they all thought as the men on the ship did at first, that I had lost my wits.

In a short time, I got rid of these strange

thoughts and came to look at all things in the right way, but my wife said I should no more

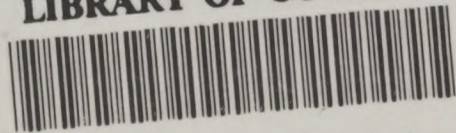


I BENT DOWN AS LOW AS HER KNEES.

stray from home. As to that we shall see. In the mean time, I here end this part of my sad tales.

THE END.

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